

Washington 2000 Crop Weather Season Review

JANUARY: No major floods occurred during the month. Mild weather prevailed during most of the month. Retail nurseries reported excellent sales of primroses. Hay supplies were reported short due to poor yields during last summer's harvest. Cattle were brought in from ranges and were being fed. Precipitation was adequate for winter wheat crops.

FEBRUARY: Temperatures continued to be mild. Field activities for the season began, with fields being plowed, soils being fumigated, and weed control measures being initiated. Scattered rain occasionally interrupted fieldwork. Early month fruit tree pruning wound down. Grape pruning was in progress. An open winter and a few severe cold spells left trees and vines in good condition. The mild winter was welcomed by ranchers who were calving and lambing.

MARCH: Most soils were too wet for field cultivation. Standing water remained in most lowland fields. Artichoke growers applied lime to fields. Truck gardeners trellised raspberry fields and planted blueberries. Fruit tree pruning was mostly finished. Onion and sweet corn planting began. Winter livestock feeding programs continued. Winter wheat looked very good, but needed additional moisture. Spring wheat and barley planting was slow. Cold nighttime temperatures slowed emergence of spring crops already planted. General crop conditions were good to excellent.

APRIL: Warmer weather allowed planting of potatoes, spring wheat, barley, and Christmas trees in most areas. Grape producers focused on weed control and dormant spray applications. Daffodil and tulip fields were in bloom. Hybrid poplar trees and pome fruit were leafing out. Early season vegetables were planted. Apricots, peaches, cherries, and blueberries were in bloom. The winter wheat crop was in good condition, but needed additional moisture. Pastures improved and livestock were grazing on spring ranges. Dairy farmers harvested green chop for silage.

MAY: Warm weather and some precipitation were beneficial to the winter wheat crop. Planting of spring cereal crops were winding down. Weed control continued on many crops. Turfgrass growers continued mowing, fertilizing, and harvesting. Christmas tree growers continued treatments for adelgids and aphids. Asparagus cutting continued. Many stone fruits passed the full bloom stage. Hops were being strung. The first cutting of alfalfa continued. Lower pastures were reported as being very dry. Livestock were rotated on pastures. Dairymen were emptying lagoons.

JUNE: Winter wheat, spring wheat, and barley continued to head out and develop more rapidly with increased moisture and temperatures. Dry bean planting continued. Green pea harvest continued. U-Pick strawberries were picked and cherries were harvested. Beets were planted. Christmas tree

growers continued pest management practices. Apple thinning continued, with reports of light hail damage in Douglas and Chelan Counties. Rainfall improved range and pasture conditions. The first cutting of alfalfa wound down, and some areas started their second cutting of alfalfa.

JULY: Hail early in the month, damaged winter wheat and canola in Douglas County. Winter wheat harvest began in eastern Washington because of the hot, dry weather. Potato harvest began. Sweet corn and pumpkins showed growth due to the warm weather. Spring flowering bulb growers harvested daffodil bulbs. Turfgrass growers began continual irrigation. Berry harvests were in full swing. Cherry and apricot harvests were almost complete. Cannery pea fields started to bloom. The second cutting of alfalfa continued and third cutting began. Pastures started to dry out. Hot, dry, windy weather fueled large range fires in Klickitat County.

AUGUST: Continued hot, dry weather caused concern for fires throughout the state. The weather provided ideal harvesting conditions for spring and winter wheat. Potato and sugarbeet harvests progressed. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in Noble fir. Turfgrass growers continued to disc fields in preparation for fall planting. Sweet corn and silage corn showed signs of stress. Grapes ripened at a fast pace due to the warm temperatures. Lack of moisture prevented many producers from harvesting a second and third cutting of alfalfa. Non-irrigated pastures were drying up rapidly. Dairymen continued pumping lagoons and applying liquid manure to forage fields.

SEPTEMBER: Winter wheat harvest was completed and seeding continued. Cool, damp weather slowed the harvest. Spring cereal grain harvest wound down. Potato harvest continued. Grape and apple harvests were underway. Sweet corn, carrots, dry beans, and onions were harvested. Spring flower bulb growers and turfgrass producers cultivated fields. Blueberry harvest was nearly complete. U-Pick pumpkin farms prepared to open. Range conditions improved and curbed the threat of fire. Sporadic rain and cooler temperatures caused difficulty baling alfalfa and timothy hay.

OCTOBER: Heavy rain and thunderstorms caused flooding and damage to newly seeded winter wheat fields. Turfgrass growers seeded new fields and applied fertilizer. Potato harvest wound down. U-Pick pumpkin farms did a brisk business. Apple harvest continued under ideal weather conditions. Pear harvest was completed. Range and pasture conditions went from fair to good, as the month progressed and precipitation was received. Some rangeland was destroyed by wildfires. Significant frost damage on sweet corn was reported in the Columbia Basin. Cattle were brought down from summer pastures.

NOVEMBER: Christmas tree harvest was in full swing with some producers in Lewis County using helicopters to harvest. Sugarbeet, carrot, and corn for grain harvest continued. Potato harvest neared completion. Fruit growers prepared orchards for winter. Organic truck gardeners continued harvesting late season vegetables. Commercial nursery producers moved cold sensitive plants indoors. Greenhouse tomato growers harvested their final tomatoes for the year. The apple harvest was above average with good color and quality. Snow in eastern Washington slowed the development of winter wheat. Most cattle were either on fall pastures or full feed.

DECEMBER: In western areas of the state, the weather was drier and warmer than normal for most of the month. Snow and freezing temperatures in central and eastern Washington made it difficult for dryland producers to get into fields. Snow cover protected the winter wheat crop during the coldest part of December. Cold temperatures increased livestock feeding early in the month. Hay supplies remained adequate. Christmas tree growers cleaned harvested fields in preparation for replanting. One commercial dahlia grower was still digging tubers. Fruit trees were pruned. There was no winter injury to grapes or soft fruit.

2000 Washington Climate 1/

STATION	COUNTY	ELEV. FEET	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			
			HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	% NORMAL	DAYS
WEST										
Bellingham	Whatcom	149	83	20	50	+1	32.42	-3.90	89	173
Everett	Snohomish	606	84	25	50	-1	26.45	-10.23	72	157
Hoquiam	Grays Harbor	12	89	27	51	-1	52.37	-15.85	77	183
Kelso	Cowlitz	30	95	21	52	+1	29.72	-17.04	64	137
Olympia	Thurston	195	91	18	50	+0	39.17	-11.68	76	163
Seattle-Tacoma	King	400	87	27	52	-1	28.15	-9.22	75	143
Shelton	Mason	271	93	21	51	-2	50.92	-14.29	78	166
Tacoma	King	400	90	19	51	-2	30.01	-10.44	74	148
Vancouver	Clark	2	97	20	53	+2	31.11	-10.40	75	148
CENTRAL										
Ellensburg	Kittitas	1,705	97	1	46	-2	8.16	-0.82	91	78
Omak	Okanogan	1,298	104	1	48	+3	4.20	-10.91	28	57
Stampede Pass	Kittitas	3,958	83	8	39	+2	58.23	-23.24	71	180
Wenatchee	Chelan	1,229	100	6	49	-2	5.94	-2.41	71	77
Yakima AP	Yakima	1,064	101	6	49	-1	5.94	-2.06	74	68
NORTHEAST										
Colville	Stevens	1,885	102	-1	48	+3	18.81	-2.49	88	111
Deer Park	Spokane	2,113	97	-3	45	-3	20.54	+1.94	110	111
Spokane AP	Spokane	2,356	99	5	46	-2	15.04	-1.52	91	101
EAST CENTRAL										
Ephrata	Grant	1,259	103	1	50	-2	7.66	+0.41	106	74
Moses Lake	Grant	1,185	104	8	50	-2	9.19	+1.94	127	69
SOUTHEAST										
Hanford	Benton	731	107	13	53	-3	7.16	+0.64	110	67
Pasco	Franklin	399	106	11	53	-2	8.18	+0.66	109	72
Pullman	Whitman	2,537	97	0	46	-1	10.73	-10.45	51	90
Walla Walla AP	Walla Walla	1,166	106	17	53	-2	20.16	+0.60	103	99
Whitman Mission	Walla Walla	632	105	10	51	-1	17.82	+4.01	129	114
IDAHO:										
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE										
Lewiston ID	Nez Perce	1,436	103	16	53	+1	13.15	+0.68	105	113

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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